

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): Peptide A peptide composition characterized in that it comprisescomprising:

- (a) a-an isolated polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, ~~as well as and~~
- (b) a-an isolated polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): Peptide The peptide composition according to claim 18, characterized in thatwherein said NS3 and/or NS4 and/or NS5b originate from viruses of different genotypes.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): Peptide The peptide composition according to claim 18, characterized in thatwherein said NS3, NS4 and NS5b originate from a virus of the same genotype, ~~preferably genotype 1b.~~

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): Expression An expression vector characterized in that it comprisescomprising:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus,

(b)-and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5bof the hepatitis C virus,
and

(c) ~~as well as the means necessary to the their expression of said nucleotide sequences.~~

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from viruses of different genotypes.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a virus of the same genotype, ~~preferably the genotype 1b.~~

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~thiswherein said expression vector is an adenovirus.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~The expression vector according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the genome of the adenovirus is modified so as to replace the E1 region by the expression cassette CMV-NS3-NS4 and to replace the E3 region by the expression cassette SV40-NS5b.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~Expression~~The expression vector according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~thiswherein said expression vector is a poxvirus.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): Expression The expression vector according to claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the genome of the poxvirus is modified so as to insert the expression cassette ph5r-NS3-NS4 and to insert the expression cassette p7.5- NS5b.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): Microorganism A microorganism or host cell transformed by an expression vector as defined in claim 21.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A method for the inhibition, prevention or control of an infection caused by ~~the~~ hepatitis C virus in an animal, ~~preferably human~~, ~~comprising~~wherein said method comprises administering to an animal in need thereof:

(a) the use of a peptide composition that comprisescomprising a an isolated polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, ~~as well as~~ and an isolated a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus;

(b) or of an expression vector comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, and (iii) the means necessary to the expression of said nucleotide sequencesas defined in claim 21;

(c) or of an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus ~~with~~and an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; or

(d) an expression vector comprising nucleotide sequences coding for said the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, said nucleotide sequences corresponding to the sequences contained in the expression vectorsas defined in claim 21, placed under the control of elements necessary to

an expression constitutive of and/or inducible from said polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus peptides.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): Pharmaceutical-A pharmaceutical composition comprising a, in particular vaccine, wherein said vaccine comprises:

(a) comprising as active ingredient thea peptide composition that comprisescomprising an isolateda polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as and an isolated-a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus,;

(b)-or an expression vector comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, and (iii) the means necessary to the expression of said nucleotide sequencesas defined in claim 21,; or

(c)-or an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus with and an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): Pharmaceutical-The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, characterized in that it alsowherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises a pharmaceutically appropriate vehicle.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): Pharmaceutical-A pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccine, comprising a vaccine, characterized in that itwherein said vaccine comprises:

(a) at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus; and

(b) at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): Pharmaceutical A pharmaceutical kit comprising a vaccine, wherein said vaccine~~in particular vaccine~~, characterized in that it comprises:

(a) at least one adenoviral expression vector characterized in that it comprises~~comprising~~ a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, as well as~~and~~ the means necessary to their the expression of said nucleotide sequences, wherein said vector is an adenovirus; and

(b) at least one poxviral expression vector characterized in that it comprises~~comprising~~ a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, as well as~~and~~ the means necessary to their the expression of said nucleotide sequences, wherein said vector is a poxvirus.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Pharmaceutical A pharmaceutical kit comprising a vaccine, wherein said vaccine comprises; in particular vaccine, comprising

(a) at least one of the following expression vector vectors:

(i) an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, and the means necessary to the expression of said nucleotide sequences; and

_____ as defined in claim 21, or (ii) at least one an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus with and an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; and

(b) at least one of the following compositions:

_____ (i) at least one a peptide composition that comprises a comprising an isolated polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as a and an isolated polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, or and

_____ (ii) at least one a composition comprising an isolated nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn-New) The peptide composition according to claim 20, wherein said NS3, NS4, and NS5b originate from a virus of genotype 1b.

Claim 36 (New) The expression vector according to claim 23, wherein said nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a virus of genotype 1b.

Claim 37 (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said animal is a human.